

FROM WISH TO REALITY

Recommendations for a livable Boschstraatkwartier



Time for change in Boschstraatkwartier

From May to June, students from Wageningen University & Research worked with initiator Jim Allen of the Boschstraatkwartier Neighbourhood Network to make the neighbourhood more attractive. By conducting research and collecting residents' wishes, this booklet contains recommendations to boost the Boschstraatkwartier. This is not only about changes in the neighbourhood, but also about the neighbourhood feeling.

Commissioner

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Atelier 2024

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Puzzle the future together!

To create a future plan for the Boschstraatkwartier, the opinions of local residents are needed! To gather these, a workshop took place on Thursday 20 June 2024. Many local residents came and enthusiastically shared their ideas for the neighbourhood.

The students' research and the workshop showed the challenges and opportunities in the neighbourhood. Local residents would like to see more fine places where they can get together while not inviting unwanted guests to hang out in the neighbourhood. In addition, the structure of the houses causes noise pollution. To solve these issues, this project focuses on solutions that reduce noise pollution and provide more opportunities to use outdoor space.



Research and practice combined



These advices for the Boschstraatkwartier and the outcomes of the workshop were combined with the student's research. This involved looking at the history of the neighbourhood, climate change and its effects & social aspects.



The advice is composed of a recommendation map, on which various initiatives are visible in the Boschstraatkwartier. The initiatives are placed in the neighbourhood in a way that reinforces each other. This creates an integrated plan and addresses several challenges simultaneously. These initiatives represent possible future projects. The location of the initiatives is based on residents' opinions and spatial research. The recommendation map provides inspiration for improving liveability.



In the pages that follow, you will find the various initiatives in more detail. Here you will find tips and points of attention if you want to realise a particular initiative. Don't forget to scroll through to the references if you are looking for more information on a specific initiative.



How and when you could implement the initiatives can be found on the timeline and in the implementation strategy. This describes which initiatives can easily be made within a short period of time and which ones require more cooperation with, for example, the neighbourhood network or municipality.



The final section shows the initiatives in a realistic way in the Boschstraatkwartier. This shows how the different initiatives can reinforce each other and what the possibilities are within the neighbourhood!



Recommendation Map

Boschstraatkwartier as a backyard



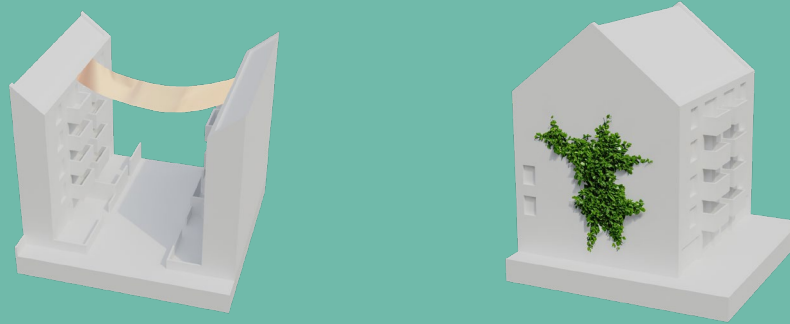
1. Sheets
2. Green Walls
3. Urban Art
4. Multifunctional benches
5. Biodiversity
6. Bicycle park
7. Water infiltration site
8. Playground site
9. Passage ways
10. Delivery pick-up

1. Sheets

Ambience

Cultural history

Cooling



Possibilities

- Sheets in front of the **windows** or above the **street**.
- Sheets serve as **shade sheets** and have a positive effect on heat in the neighborhood.
- Sheets are easily removable.
- Sheets can be used as a **pilot** to discover the effect.
- Use of material, for example a **recycled** cloth or sheet.

Things you should know

- Subsidies available for 'measures against heat' through the municipality. Sound can be absorbed with the right materials, for example with thick woven fabrics.
- A water-permeable shade sheet provides more protection against UV radiation.

2. Green Walls

Cooling

Noise reduction

Habitat

Possible locations



- On smaller streets.
- Where there are no trees.

Possible locations



- On bare walls.
- Facing east, south and west, for plenty of sunlight.

Possibilities

- You plant the climbing greenery as a **facade garden**.
- The climbing plants should not grow on the wall, but on a **grid** attached to it. This is because some plants can affect soft or older walls.

Check out the references for more tips on attaching and planting!

Things you should know

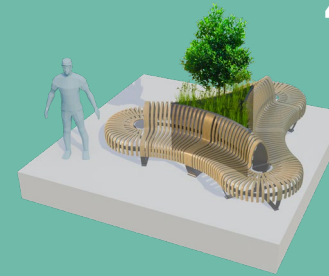
- It can take a few years for the grid to grow nicely full, so start as soon as possible!
- It is important to discuss this initiative with the municipality and owners of the building in question. After all, the plan concerns other people's property and the Boschstraatkwartier is a protected Cityscape.
- Apply to the municipality for grant opportunities.

3. Urban Art

Cultural history

Attract visitors

Ambience



4. Multifunctional benches

Social cohesion

Recreation

Art / Cooling

Possibilities

Art can translate identity in different ways. In addition, the Boschstraatkwartier has a rich history. For example, the pottemennekes could be remembered by:

- **Mosaics** and/or **murals** on walls. This can be done, among others, in the thoroughfares or squares.
- **Sculptures, monuments** or incorporated into functional objects such as **benches**.
- Route with **historical information**.

Things you should know

The municipality has set up an advisory committee for Art in Public Space (**KIOR**). The advisory committee advises and assesses initiatives. There are several steps for this:

1. Submit proposal
2. Apply for environmental permit
3. Apply for subsidy (optional)

Possible locations



- Sculptures in central places or near historical buildings.
- Paintings on shadow walls or frequently visited places.

Possible locations



- In open spaces.
- Near greenery.
- Where people pass or congregate.

Possibilities

- Benches can be combined with art or greenery. Thus, the focus of functionality is on another component than just 'seating'.
- Combining **art** with benches can be done through mosaics or drawings that represent the cultural history of the neighbourhood.
- The combination of **greenery and seating** can provide cooling in the city.

Things you should know

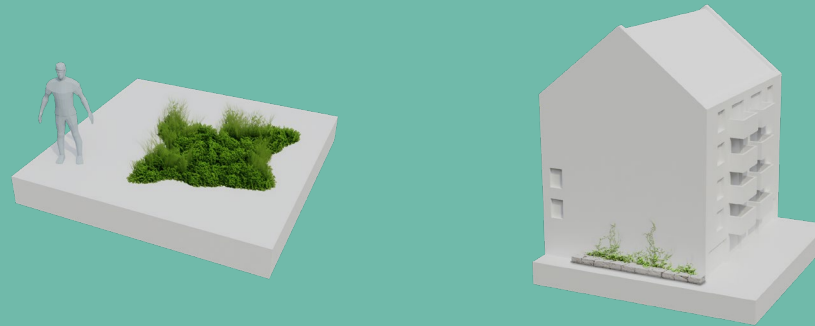
- 'Fundraising online' offers money for initiatives that contribute to livability in Maastricht.
- The design should focus on demultifunctionality, preventing hangouts.
- A pilot gives opportunities to test with different locations, before being permanently placed.

5. Biodiversity

Cooling

Water infiltration

Habitat



Facade garden

Possibilities

Every green initiative gives nature a helping hand. More (contiguous) plants, trees and bushes allow animals, such as birds and insects, to move around the neighbourhood and city better. This allows them to find a place for themselves!

In addition, greenery also makes people's lives nicer. Not only does it help **reduce water flooding**, but also for a cooler neighbourhood.

Boosting **local biodiversity** can be done using the following options:

- Facade garden
- Native plants
- Tile removal
- Insect hotels

Possible locations



- In open spaces.
- Keep streets accessible to traffic.
- In pots/bins: where parking garage is underground.

Species of plants

Take into account the **amount of sunlight** that your facade garden will receive when you pick the plants select the plants. Below are some examples to give you get you started:

Under the sun:

- Hollyhock
- Daffodil
- Dahlia
- Lavender
- Rosemary

In the shadow:

- Stork Beak
- Firethorn
- Periwinkle
- Helleborus
- Hydrangea
- Foxglove
- Spurge

Things you should know

- Maximum 45 centimetres wide, provided at least 120 centimetres of walking space remains on the pavement.
- Maximum 40 centimetres deep.
- Place the removed paving stone upright to prevent subsidence and allow rainwater to flow into the little garden.
- Fill with plants and garden soil. Mix in the soil already there.

Facade gardens quickly become dry. So give them plenty of water!

Take note!

It is not wise to place larger shrubs or trees in your facade garden.

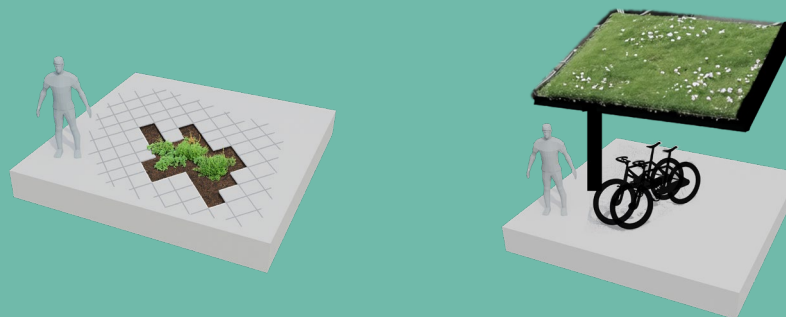
Check with the municipality:

- on living within protected cityscape.
- if there is any doubt about any pipes or cables present.

For additional information, check the references at the back of this booklet!

Native plants, tile removal & habitat

Check out the references for more tips!



6. Bicycle parking

Tidiness

Traffic safety

Native plants

These types of plants are used to the local soil, animals, and climate. Besides that, some native species can even adapt to the changing climate.



Tile removal

This initiative is easy to apply in the neighbourhood. Tile removal is allowed from your own front, back and façade gardens. It helps cool the neighbourhood and drain water. Discuss this with your landlord too! Maastricht is also participating in the NK tegelwippen! On behalf of Centrum voor Natuur- en Milieueducatie (CNME), you can pick up a free plant for every garden tile wiped at:

- **Saturday 12 october 2024** - Between 10.00 and 15.00 at Huiskamer van Heer on Gerard Walravenstraat 92a.
- **Saturday 26 october 2024** - Between 10.00 and 15.00 at Stadstuin De Greune Luijer on President Rooseveltlaan.

Insect hotels

Hang at least knee height to a maximum of 2 metres. Find a spot in the sun near flowers, but protected from wind and rain. You can either buy these or make your own!

Possible locations



Bird houses

Choose your nest box based on which birds live in the area, paying attention to the size of the entrance opening. Common in urban areas are swifts. Choose a quiet and harmless spot.



- Where there are many incorrectly parked bicycles.
- At the edges of the neighbourhood.

Possibilities

- Bicycles placed in **marked area** on the ground.
- Parking bicycles is parking **without canopy**.
- Bicycles placed in shelter **with canopy** - green roof/solar panels.
- CROW's handbook gives many options.
 - See references!

Things you should know

- Bicycle racks focus more on short duration parking of bicycles, while single-stall parking is more focused on longer duration parking. Therefore, consider which bicycle parking is appropriate for type of user.
- Municipality of Maastricht mentions the shortage of bicycle parking spaces in pedestrian areas in 'Actieplan fietsparkeren Maastricht'.
 - But therefore, together with the municipality, draw up an action plan.

7. Water infiltration site

Cooling

Water infiltration

Habitat



Possibilities

Currently, much of the neighbourhood is petrified. This causes water to drain quickly through the sewer system. In case of flooding, this can cause excessive pressure on the sewer system. In addition, water collection helps during droughts because the soil remains wet from the previous period for longer.

Besides having a great effect underground, water infiltration spots also have an impact above ground in public spaces. This is because water infiltration spots are accompanied by greenery. This also increases biodiversity and cooling in the neighbourhood.

Collecting water in the district can be done through the following initiatives:

- *Wadi*
- *Green strip*
- *Rain garden*

Possible locations



- Open spots.
- Streets accessible for traffic.
- Not possible on top of parking garage.



Rain garden

The details of façade gardens are already shown in the biodiversity section. If you want to focus on water infiltration, you can run the downspout into the green space. This creates a **rain garden**.



Wadi

Wadis are the largest water collection sites possible in the Boschstraatkwartier. A Wadi covers a large area of land and is lower than the rest of the street. As a result, rainwater runs into the wadi. The wadi can consist of **grass** or **flower mixture**. This can be laid out as you choose.

The wadis can only be constructed in the Boschstraatkwartier in places where there is no underground car park. As this is a major intervention, it should be realised together with the municipality.



Green strip

The green strip consists of **low plants** or **grass**. The green strip can be laid in the middle of the road. This will discourage, but not completely prevent, vehicles. The green strip can consist of **grass** or **rain-permeable pavement**. In this way, water is collected and drains slowly.

8. Playground

Social cohesion

Encourage movement

Cooling



9. Passage ways

Ambience

Cultural history

Social safety

Possibilities

- There are different forms of public playgrounds: **water playground**, **outdoor fitness** or **green playground**.
- Combine playground with places where people come together to **strengthen social cohesion**.
- Use streets to play on or use **squares** to play on.
- Focus on stimulating movement.

Things you should know

- Nature playgrounds cannot be placed above car parks.
- Playgrounds should be combined with interventions that dampen noise, such as sheet or (vertical) greenery.
- 'Plan of approach to public sports and play facilities' offers options for expansion.
 - Capitalise on this and engage with the municipality.

Possible locations



- In squares and courtyards.
- In combination with planting against noise nuisance.

Possible locations



- In the passageways between squares and courtyards.

Possibilities

- Improve **lighting** in passageways.
- Installing art in passageways.
- Processing cultural history in art: **Mosaic**, **painting**.
- Adding more **greenery** in the passage.
- Preventing through traffic.
- Mirrors can increase social safety.

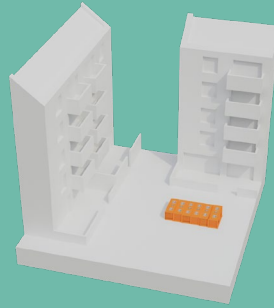
Things you should know

- Lighting can be easily adjusted by the type of lamp.
- Art creates a prouder neighbourhood feeling.
 - Organize events around the art project.
- Artists can vary greatly in price, also look at local options.
- Grants available for art in public spaces in Maastricht.

10. Delivery pickup

Decrease vans

Traffic safety



What could the design options look like in the neighbourhood?

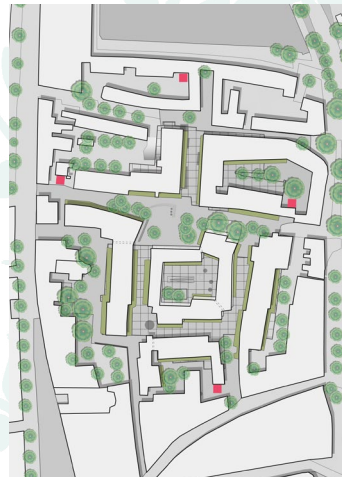
Possibilities

- Vary the number of parcel points through the neighbourhood. Deliverers should be able to reach the point safely by bus and be able to load and unload there.
- Unmanned parcel points can be provided with a *design of your choice*.
- There are several delivery services that facilitate unmanned parcel points.
- Option for parcel points in shops or houses.

Things you should know

- Place unmanned parcel points on sides of the neighbourhood so that delivery vans do not have to drive through the neighbourhood.
- Unmanned parcel points can be placed for free.
 - Requirement: flat surfaces power point needed.
- Parcel point can set its own opening hours to avoid inconvenience.

Possible locations



- At the edge of the neighborhood.

Don't let your wishes be limited to all the design options that were listed in the previous pages! There are plenty more ways to make the Boschstraatkwartier a better place to live. The design options in this booklet are there to inspire. They advice on their construction, and show *where* they could be placed. To show *how* the design options could be constructed, one example is given on the following pages.

On the crossing between the Pompenstraat and the Sint Teunisstraat, there is a small open space where it is possible to create, for instance, a wadi, because there is no parking garage underneath. Because wadi's only fill up with water in times of heavy rainfall, there is space for other functions during most of the year. As an example; the wadi can perfectly be combined with a playing element, have space for people to sit, and have more trees at the same time! It is important that there is still enough space for (emergency) vehicles to safely pass around the green space. See the map on the next page for details.

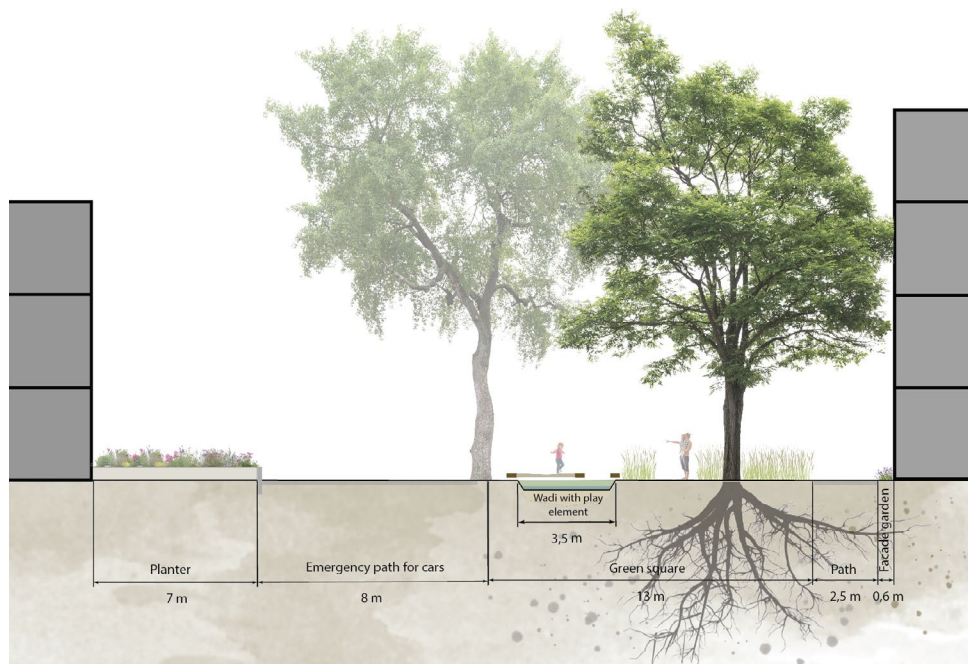


Location of this example on the map with possible locations for water infiltration

Example design map



Example design cross-section



This is a cross-section from the example design. The map on the previous page shows a line from A to A', which is the location of this section.

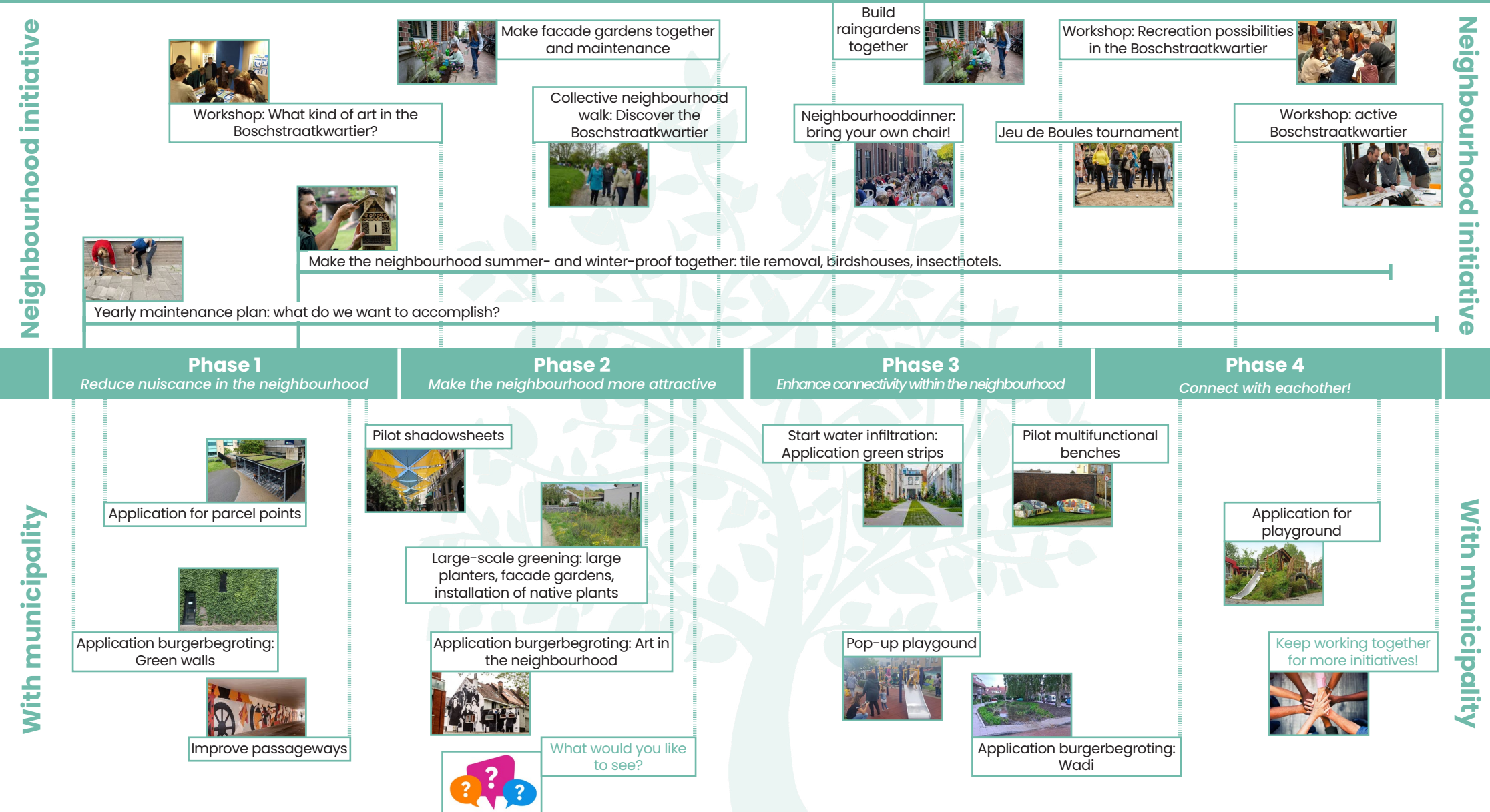
Example design visualisation



This artist impression shows how this example design can be used and experienced.

Step by step towards change

Action plan



How do we do this?

The timeline of the action plan for the Boschstraatkwartier provides insight into the steps that can be taken **by the neighborhood** to improve the quality of life together. The step-by-step plan focuses on the initiatives recommended in the advice map. Not only the wishes expressed in the workshop, but also the order of initiatives were taken into account.

It is important that the different components **reinforce each other**. For example, sound-absorbing measures (green walls and shade cloths) should be installed in combination with initiatives that may generate noise (benches and playgrounds). The **order of execution** also plays a crucial role. Consider, for example, the type of planting you want to use if you know that another initiative will provide more shade.

1

The phases build up to an increasingly livable neighborhood. **Phase 1** is all about reducing nuisance. By adding greenery, the neighborhood becomes less of a sounding board. However, it takes time for plants to grow. It is therefore best to start as soon as possible. This way you will benefit from the initiative earlier in the process. You also tackle other (noise) nuisance at the same time by moving, organizing and hopefully reducing traffic.

2

Phase 2 continues the expansion of the greenery. Attention is paid to the possibilities and space for art in the neighborhood. These themes contribute to making the neighborhood more beautiful. At the same time, it will also be better for biodiversity. An attractive neighborhood ensures that residents spend more time in the 'shared backyard' and thus meet each other.

3

The **third phase** will continue with this theme: connection. How do people come and stay together? By organizing more neighborhood activities, you come one step closer to a safer and pleasant neighborhood. When there is more mutual trust among neighbours and in the neighbourhood, temporary or permanent seating facilities are within reach.

4

The **fourth and final phase** focuses further on the recreational facilities. Although the desire for seating options and playgrounds or sports gardens is great, there are still concerns about installing these due to nuisance from unwanted visitors and noise. After introducing more greenery and strengthening the sense of neighborhood, there is a greater sense of safety. This may be caused by the greater presence of local residents on the street and the stronger mutual ties. As a result, the installation of recreational facilities could become a reality!

The timeline also includes important moments such as the burger begroting. The neighbourhood can propose initiatives to the municipality. In this way, a budget can be gained for the district. This takes place every year, so try to take advantage of it!

In addition, it is important that we think together with the neighborhood about which initiatives will be suggested, implemented and what they will look like: that is why workshops and pilots appear in the timeline. It is useful to organize one or more sessions in the run-up to an initiative and budget.

These are ways to get ideas and temporarily place an initiative in the Boschstratkwartier:

Workshop



A workshop can be part of a participation activity. In a workshop the goal is to get the participants to think in a creative way. In this way, participants are encouraged to think outside the box. Through the workshop, the wishes of the residents can be identified.

Pilots



Permanent placement of initiatives can sometimes be difficult. It often raises many questions: What is the right place? What is the effect? This can cause resistance. Pilots can provide answers to these questions. By temporarily placing an initiative in space (in different places), it is examined whether it is suitable in the neighborhood. If there is positive reflection on the initiative, it can be implemented. If this is not the case, adjustments must be made.

In addition to the focus on implementing the initiatives, it is also important that social cohesion in the neighborhood is increased. This can be encouraged by the neighborhood network. Maintaining and expanding contact is important. This can be done through a WhatsApp community:

WhatsApp Community

A neighborhood WhatsApp group can be used for many different purposes. By creating one, communication and contact with each other becomes much easier and more accessible. It is even possible to create a community. A platform is created in which the group can be divided into smaller groups. The general group and small groups hopefully bring people together. People can participate in the community by printing out a QR code and hanging it in the residential buildings. Once in the group, people can also invite others. Examples of this are:

Self-maintenance

General announcements group



Announcements can be made for various developments within the district. This may concern updates of neighborhood initiatives, announcements of neighborhood activities or other interesting updates from the Boschstraatkwartier.

Neighbourhood prevention

Since there is regular unrest within the neighborhood, it can be useful to inform each other about this; especially when it comes to people from outside the neighborhood. By being better informed about these things and possibly receiving help, the feeling of safety can improve. There is also an option to collaborate with the foundation Attentie WhatsApp Buurt Preventie.



Group for shared interests



Do you like to go for a run or walk? Or do you like games or gaming? If you are looking for people who share your passions or hobbies, a group can also be set up for this. This way you can easily be invited to do something together.

Needing and offering help

If you have a job that requires multiple hands, you can send a message in the WhatsApp group. Perhaps local residents can help each other lift furniture or solve technical problems. In addition, you also have an additional platform on which you can list items, services or even tickets as wanted or for sale.



Once the initiatives have been realized, it remains important to maintain it properly! This way we ensure that the neighborhood continues to look neat. The greenery can be maintained by the municipality, but also by the local residents themselves. This is how the neighborhood feeling can be achieved to be strengthened.

Creating and maintaining greenery in the neighborhood is something that the municipality strongly encourages – especially when it comes to public greenery such as tree stands, lawn, planters, flower beds, gardens and play areas. Since it concerns the public space of the neighborhood, there are still some rules that must be complied with. That is why the municipality recommends that you report these plans so that they are not only informed, but also able to help. This can be done on the Municipality of Maastricht website or via My Groen Maastricht. CNME also provides more information about this.

Once again you can use the WhatsApp Community to maintain the neighborhood greenery together. To prepare the greenery together (!) for summer and winter, some days can be scheduled in spring and autumn.

Moving on to action!



This booklet has provided tools to take action! From the students' research and the workshop, several wishes, but also concerns, emerged. This booklet provides inspiration on how to address this concerns and make the wishes a reality. The wishes may even solve the concerns, such as a green wall for noise pollution. It is important to keep thinking creatively and, above all, to work together. Therefore, harness the power of the neighbourhood network. That way, the Boschstraatkwartier can be enjoyed together as a backyard in the future!



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3. Visual Urban Art

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4. Multifunctional benches

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- *Effect on benches on quality of life*

Mexi, A., & Tudora, I. (2012). Livable urban spaces. Public benches and the quality of daily life.

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5. Biodiversiteit

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- *Selfmaintenance*

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- *Action plan for bicycle parking Maastricht*

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7. Water infiltration zones

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8. Playgrounds

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9. Passageways

– *Example mirrors in passageways in Tiel*

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– *Art in the city*

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– *Placing the parcelpoints*

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More information about WhatsApp Communities

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More information about Stichting Attentie WhatsApp Buurt Preventie

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More information about self-maintenance

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